

Couples Sanctify Plans, Love, With Solemn Betrothal

Can you sanctify your promise of love in the presence of the Greatest Lover, Jesus Christ? Can you secure the Church's blessings for a chaste courtship and for the important task of preparation for marriage? Yes, this is possible through the ceremony of solemn engagement.

In the days when men wore togas and hailed allegiance to the Roman emperor, betrothal involved a civil ceremony. Whenever a contract was established, witnesses observed the passing of an iron ring. For the betrothal contract, however, a gold ring became the accepted symbol.

As she often does, the Church built on existing Roman and Jewish customs and accepted the custom of engagements. In Catholic countries from the third century on, the presence of a priest to bless the couple sanctified the engagement compact and made it more binding. Although the custom is common in Catholic countries today, it is only recently receiving popular acceptance in the United States.

Just as a seminarian studies and prepares for the sacrament of Holy Orders, the couple making a solemn engagement asks the Church's blessing on the important task of their common preparation for the sacrament of Matrimony. The engagement period allows time for a more careful consideration of the tremendous obligations and sacrifices of marriage. Aided by God's grace, the couple can increase their acquaintance and affection.

Being a "quasi-sacramental" as St. Thomas described it, the solemn betrothal possesses four characteristics. The promise must be genuine and sincere. It must be accepted mutually or at least by the party to whom the promise is made. The parties must be free from force or fear. Lastly, the formal document must be drawn up and signed by both parties with two lay witnesses and a pastor as signatories as prescribed in Canon 1017.

The promise the couple make to each other is serious and binding. The very nature of the betrothal ceremony calls for a marriage at the time agreed upon by the couple. The promise, however, is not enforceable under certain circumstances. The five exceptions are the mutual agreement of parties, infidelity by one party, an unusual change of circumstances (such as a serious illness or an unfortunate accident), an impediment or a delayed religious vocation. Although the engagement period serves as a time for a final prayerful and careful consideration of the decision, to violate a solemn engagement promise without sufficient reason and to the detriment of the deserted party is, of course, a sin.

According to the couple's wishes, the ceremony may be incorporated with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass or take place in the afternoon. Although the engagement ritual is not strictly formulated, it may follow this form. The priest, vested in a surplice and white stole, awaits the couple at the communion rail. When the couple are kneeling before him he repeats psalm 126 and proceeds to instructions on the marriage state.

"By the faith that is in them," the couple repeat promises to love, to honor and to be faithful to their betrothed. Placing the ends of the stole in the form of a cross, the priest ratifies the espousals. As the fiance slips the ring on the girl's finger, the priest blesses the rings. In the final blessing he says, "May the hand of the Lord be upon you, may He send His holy angel to guard you all the

days of your life . . . Go in peace."

Solemn betrothals are neither necessary nor an official ecclesiastical rite of the church. The ceremony is filled with purpose and beauty, however. Through their public promises the couple announces their intention to the Mystical Body and begs Christ to bless their love in Him and for Him.



Irish-in-Heart Hail Shamrock Isle

Sure, and 'tis a grand and glorious sight—the likes of which ye'll not be seein' just any day of the year. No siree, it takes the "wearin' o' the green" to bring out the best that's in ye, and to have everyone at peak performance.

Everyone from the O'Flaherty clan down to the Staufenheimers (whose great-grandmother was half Irish) will parade down Fifth Avenue dressed to the hilt with top-hat and shillelaghs, and arrayed in shamrocks from head to foot.

Simple fun and entertainment, accompanied by mass confusion, is the general order of the day with enough feasting and toasting to satisfy the hungriest and driest Irishman this side of heaven (and they say there are a lot of them on the other side).

With no great effort, the shanachie can be persuaded to tune up his harp and spin a few hours of folklore. He can tell you of leprechauns—the miniature shoemakers gaily bedecked in old-fashioned suits of Kelly green, who, when captured, will surrender their secret treasure—if they don't first vanish in the blink of your eye.

He can tell you of banshees, the fairies of certain clans who give a warning wail on the approach of some calamity to the clan chief.

The shanachie can also tell you of encounters with mermaids, the gray cow of Goibniu—who provides an inexhaustible feast, and many more. He knows these things are true; he's seen them happen.

And what is the only place on earth, and who are the only people on earth to be so blessed (although the rest of the world may enviously call them "lucky")? They are the followers of St. Patrick the world over who, once a year in full force—thank heavens—surrender their hearts and heads to the one corner of Paradise God placed on earth—Erin!

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ACP First Honors

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Fun, Facts, Talks Spark Convention

When Paul Butler opens the mock Democratic convention at Loras college, April 6, all the noise, campaigning and scheming of a political convention will begin. But participation in this supposes an intelligent preparation.

An important part of a convention is the presentation of a platform and its ratification by the delegates. This platform contains issues which are of importance now and will be emphasized in the campaigns this summer.

One of the highlights of the platform will probably be the civil rights plank, as debated by Clarke and Loras debate teams. Civil rights is of special interest because of the debate in the US Congress. The agriculture plank will consider the ever-present problem of parity.

Important parts of the labor policy concern the Taft-Hartley law and "right to work" laws. Changes in taxes and taxation policies will be proposed. The convention will also take stands on education, foreign affairs, national defense and national resources.

For all these planks, a consideration of past and present policies is necessary to form an opinion.

The major business of the convention, of course, is the nomination of presidential and vice-presidential candidates. A campaign will be conducted for each of the major candidates giving the nominees' views on issues. The state delegations will examine the opinions of the state they represent, and vote as they feel the state will go.

Nomination and selection of the vice-presidential candidate will follow.

The purpose of the convention is to stimulate political interest and to create an understanding of politics through practical demonstration.

An active participation in the platform approval and nominations require student preparation. The more one knows about the issues and persons, the more active she can be in campaigning and bargaining for votes.

Prayerful Laity Inherits Breviary

The possibility of Clarke students chanting portions of the divine office at Thursday night Holy Hours was suggested recently at an L-Board meeting. Most Catholics are familiar with the liturgy of the Mass and sacraments but leave the Divine Office to chanting monks and contemplative nuns. A growing movement in the Church advocates more emphasis by the laity on the office.

The Divine Office is the official daily praise which the Church offers to God composed mainly of quotations from Scripture. It is divided into eight sections or Hours, one Hour for each three hours in the day. Like the Mass, the Divine Office has an Ordinary section, which continues from day to day, and a Proper which changes.

Sister Mary Laurentia Diggles, CSJ, states in *Transfigured World* that "Exploring the office and living with an awareness of the symbolism which is its gift to our every day can be an adventure. In this adventure we discover that every day in the office (in Dylan Thomas' words . . .) the 'whole world sings its morning of praise."

Sister further explains, "The office is a most useful instrument for adding fresh effectiveness to our private and communal prayer, a new dimension to our offering of the Mass, and a newly wakened delight in the whole round earth."

Prayers in the office run the kaleidoscope of human emotions expressed in the "poetry of the psalms which has been warmed in the hearts and on the tongues of people for thousands of years."

Because the office follows through each day from midnight (Matins), every three hours until Compline at 9 p.m., each hour takes its tone and theme from its particular time of day. Vespers, for instance, at 6 p.m., is the time for evening meal and sacrifice.

Sister Laurentia mentions four ways in which the laity can share in the Divine Office. First, she says, members of the Mystical Body should be conscious of the great stream of adoration and praise which it sends up to God each day. They should unite themselves with this stream.

Secondly, after a little study of the symbolism appropriate for each hour, Catholics can transfer this knowledge to make their hours take on more meaning and grace.

Thirdly, she suggests that each person choose psalms or hymns from the Bible, missal, or breviary to be read or recited at certain hours each day.

Although the laity is not bound to the recitation of the office, Sister's fourth suggestion is that lay persons choose to pray some selected portions of it from time to time.

Most likely, Compline would be the hour selected for use at Clarke.

The keynote of Compline is: "May the Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end." It includes various readings and hymns and the prayer "Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit." Compline climaxes with the song of Simeon: "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace. Because my eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for thy people Israel."

Compline ends by asking God's protection, and that He send the angels to keep peace that night.

Before we condemn this suggestion concerning use of a portion of the Divine Office at Holy Hours, let us investigate its beauty and symbolism and significance. Let us discover what the office means to the Church and what it can mean to each of us individually.



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a reading faux pas...

befell Barb Teshner. Not noticing that the title of the book she was reading was *Witness for the Prosecution and Other Short Stories* by Agatha Christie, Barb thought she had one complete novel. "You know," she remarked, "these chapters just don't seem to follow one another."

A pay-scale problem...

might be encountered by Ginnie Weldon who was preparing one of her sculpture pieces in Beta commons. When Rosie Kozlowski asked, "What are you doing, Ginnie?" "Oh, I'm casting David," was the reply. "Well," quipped Rosie, "I hope he gets the part."

undaunted Joan Balsamo...

who had the misfortune to have a slight accident with a rented car in Chicago, informed her friends one day that she had to call the "Dent-a-car" company.

a chemistry joke...

is being promoted for the Lenten season. When asked what new drug is developed during this period of the year, the correct answer is "sulfa denial."

a new distinction...

for Clarke college is a boast of the youngest professor in the United States. Mr. Edmund Demers celebrated his tenth birthday on Feb. 29.

her own particular "Logic"...

developed by Toni Cardenas is evidenced in the following situation. When discussing the problem of finding housing next year, Toni declared the YMCA to be ideal because of its low rent. Not realizing she had the wrong initials, she later decided she would have to discard the idea since the YMCA was not a Catholic organization.

Lenten season...

has also proved "engagement season" for three more Clarkites. Diane Hammes, junior, received a ring from Bill Killilea, a Notre Dame senior, the weekend of the Mardi Gras ball in South Bend. Audrey Engels, senior, was surprised with a ring from Bob Niemeyer of St. Louis, Mo., a sparkling tip for a kitchenette meal. Lynn Adams, freshman, is betrothed to Philip Crowley, an Air Force man.

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Symposia Contrasts Vagabond Poet, Villon, Knight of Chivalry

A history symposium on April 3 at 2 p.m. will contrast a fifteenth century picaresque poet and a medieval knight exemplar.

Toni Cardenas, senior social studies major from Chicago, will consider "Francois Villon, the Vagabond Poet." Villon was a French lyric poet and character of rascality. Miss Cardenas received her material from the Chicago and Dubuque public libraries and the Clarke library.

Alice Kamp, senior history major from Dubuque, will show a contrast in "William Marshall, the Flower of Chivalry." Marshall was a Knight exemplar and intimate of kings. The material for Miss Kamp's symposium was found in the Clarke and Loras libraries.

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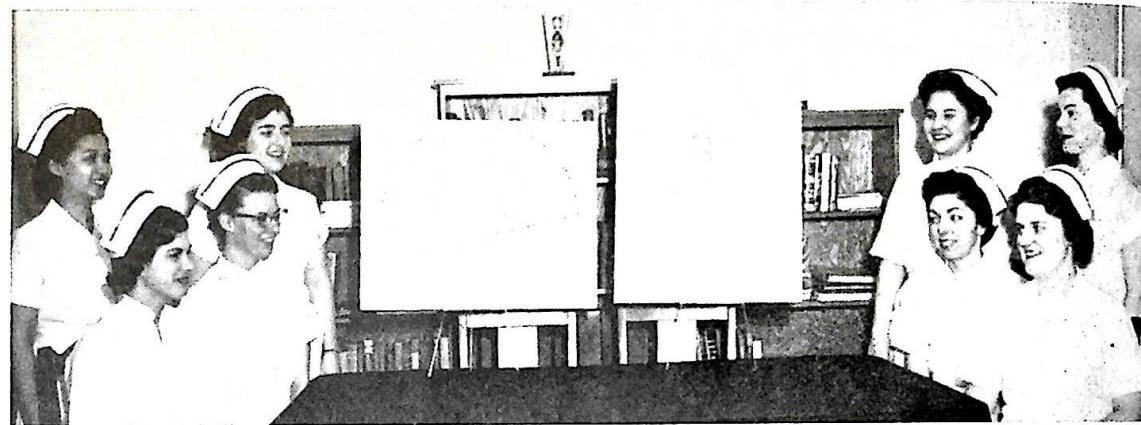
Varied Sports Events Provide Opportunities For Athletic-Minded

Cecilia McLaughlin smashed her way to victory Feb. 28 in the finals of the ping-pong tournament held in the activity room. Winning the required two games out of three, she defeated Margie White, who was named the runner-up. Kay Doty acted as chairman of the event.

Tryouts and practices are currently on the agendas of class athletic captains in preparation for the intramural basketball tourney on March 28 and 29. Lots will be drawn to determine which classes will compete against each other in the first two games. The championship game will culminate the tournament on March 29. Patrick Dalton and Edward Clark, Lorasmen, will referee. The present sophomores are the 1959 champions.

Future nutritionists

who will view the world of nutrition through home economics seminars are Elizabeth Amoroso, Bernadine Fleury, Jacqueline Jankowski, Joanne O'Malley, Phyllis Nickels, Joanne Gannon, Mary Ellen Hood and Sheila Farnan.



Nutrition Seminars View Food Industry

"A Nutritionist Views Additives" is the subject Jacqueline Jankowski, senior foods and nutrition major, Chicago, selected for her symposium on Sunday, March 20, in the Home Economics center. She will discuss food additives, food adulteration and the new food additive law which are of major concern in the food industry today.

Other senior home economics majors will present seminar papers in nutrition class. From these, one will be selected for presentation on Sunday, May 8.

Elizabeth Amoroso, Hawaii, will present "Nutrition and Old Age" on April 21. Sheila Farnan, Dubuque, has selected "Arteriosclerosis" for seminar presentation on March 24. "Nutrition and Diabetes" is the topic Bernadine Fleury, Atlanta, Ga., has chosen for March 24. Joanne Gannon, Bondurant, will present "Cholesterol and Diet Therapy," March 31. Mary Ellen Hood, Manson, will speak on "Food Facts, Fads and Fallacies" for March 31. "Foreign Foods and Nutrition" by

Bridge Champs Take WAA Stakes—Steaks

Agnes Angerer and Valerie Berghoff, bridge tournament victors, survived three preliminary rounds March 11, in the WAA-sponsored bridge tournament which climaxed in the two finals March 12. The certificates for steak dinners were awarded. The coffee shop in Mary Josita hall was the scene of the Clarke-Loras event.

Registration was open only to couples. Prizes were also awarded to Constance Kuhl and Barbara Bohn in recognition of their skill at the game.

Leading the planning committee was Constance Kuhl. Other WAA members working on the project included Kay Doty, publicity; Mary O'Connell, refreshments; Mary Jane Traiser, registration; Jacqueline Kissling, habilitation; and Nancy Klucken, rules and qualifications.

Frosh Teammates Splash To Victory

The freshmen swam to victory, March 9, in the annual meet held in Terence Donaghoe hall. Their winning score totaled 109. Sister Mary Michail, BVM, presented the silver trophy to the freshman athletic captain, Mary O'Connell, immediately following the event.

Winners of the various divisions included: Katherine Higgins, underwater; Mary Ellen Dougherty and Mary Patricia Enzler, free style; Marie Hart and Mary Patricia Redmond, front crawl; Mary Ellen Dougherty, back crawl; Marie Hart and Mary Ann Leffingwell, front dive; Peggy Barrett and Sharon Scully (junior), back dive.

Other victorious entrants were: Bernadine Fleury, breast stroke; Joanne O'Malley, side stroke; Katherine Fitzgerald, novelty dive; Mildred Murphy, Sharon Scully, and Katherine Fitzgerald, optional dives; Mary Patricia Redmond, Patti Paletti, and Mary Patricia Enzler, medley.

Sister Mary Michail and Betty Wells, physical education instructor presided as judges for the meet.

Team Participates In Debate Meets

The Clarke college debate team, consisting of Ann Niemeyer and Judy Heitzmann, affirmative, and Jeanne Glenn and Constance Kuhl, negative, participated in a debate contest at Northern Illinois university at DeKalb on Feb. 22. Debating the national topic for the year, Resolved: Congress Should Have the Power to Reverse Decisions of the Supreme Court, the team debated a total of ten schools including Wisconsin university, Illinois university, Bradley university and Loyola university.

After Mary Alice Studebaker's resume of qualifications and an address by Miss Gebhardt, she was chosen from candidates representing most of the colleges and universities in Iowa. Mary Ellen Hood was a voting delegate.

Conference and discussion groups investigated the different aspects of home economics, the careers possible in the field and the improving of Home Economics clubs.

"Dirty Work At the Crossroads" was attempted, tried and a success in the melodrama presented Feb. 27 by Carol Craighead and Meredith Cutter as their senior drama project.

